

Message Text

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44

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5338

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, EMIN, JA

SUBJECT: TUNGSTEN PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN JAPAN: 1974/1975

REF: SATE 224074

SUMMARY: JAPAN IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE 1,600-1,700 MT METALLIC TUNGSTEN IN 1974 WITH IMPORTS OF 300 MT. 1974 DOMESTIC DEMAND FORECAST FOR METALLIC TUNGSTEN IS 2,000 MT MAXIMUM. METALLIC TUNGSTEN MFRS. ESTIMATE TOTAL MONTHLY DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF 120-130 MT FROM SEPT. 1974 THROUGH AT LEAST JUNE 1975 WITH DEMAND REMAINING AT ABOUT THAT LEVEL AS LONG AS CURRENT GOJ ANTI-INFLATIONARY MONETARY POLICY CONTINUES. JAPAN'S SOLE FERRO-TUNGSTEN PRODUCER PLANS TO MANUFACTURE 900 MT IN 1974 AND 650 MT IN 1975 AND ESTIMATES TOTAL 1975 DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AT 650-700 MT. JAPAN DOES NOT EXPORT TUNGSTEN, FERRO-TUNGSTEN, OR TUNGSTEN ORE CONCENTRATES. END SUMMARY

1. JAPG/S DOMESTIC PRODUCTION CONSUMPTION, AND IMPORTS OF METALLIC TUNGSTEN: UNIT MT

	1973	JAN.-AUG. 1974
PRODUCTION	2,018	1,134
CONSUMPTION	1,902	JAN.-JUN, 1974
	1,191	

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IMPORTS 204 164

U.S.	92	72
W. GERMANY	68	62
FRANCE	44	29
U.K.	0	1

2. JAPAN'S DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS OF TUNGSTEN

ORE CONCENTRATES: UNIT MT

1973 JAN.-JUNE 1974

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION	1,510	706
IMPORTS	4,563	2,056
S. KOREA	1,473	582
THAILAND	842	284
CANADA	790	250
PERU	301	352
AUSTRALIA	519	122
CHINA	263	188
PORTUGAL	30	214
ZAIRE	130	50
MEXICO	96	0
BOLIVIA	69	0
OTHER	50	14

3. ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN RESULTING FROM GOJ ANTI-INFLATIONARY ECONOMIC POLICY HAS LED TO DECREASED DEMAND FOR MACHINE TOOLS, HIGH SPEED CUTTING TOOLS, ELECTRONIC TUBES, LIGHT BULBS, ELECTRIC SWITCHES, AND OTHER PRODUCTS WHICH CONTAIN TUNGSTEN. MONTHLY DOMESTIC METALLIC TUNGSTEN PRODUCTION DROPPED FROM 157 MT IN JULY TO 124 MT IN AUGUST, BUT TUNGSTEN FIRMS EXPECT PRODUCTION TO LEVEL OFF AT 120-130 MT PER MONTH WHERE IT WILL REMAIN UNTIL OVERALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, PARTICULARLY PLANT INVESTMENT, PICKS UP.

4. JAPAN'S SOLE FERRO-TUNGSTEN PRODUCER, AWAMURA FERRO-TUNGSTEN CO., LTD., MANUFACTURED 934 MT IN 1973. CO. WILL PRODUCE ABOUT 900 MT IN 1974 AND 650 MT IN 1975, ALL BASED ON ADVANCE ORDERS. FIRM ESTIMATES TOTAL 1975 DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION FERRO-TUNGSTEN AT 650-700 MT. DECLINING DEMAND UNCLASSIFIED

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STEMS FROM INCREASING USE OF NEW PRODUCTION PROCESS FOR SPECIAL STEELS WHICH DIRECTLY INCORPORATES TUNGSTEN ORE CONCENTRATE AS WELL AS FROM GOJ TIGHT MONEY POLICY. FERRO-TUNGSTEN IMPORTS DOWN SHARPLY FROM 598 MT IN 1973 TO 91 MT JAN.-JUNE 1974.

5. TUNGSTEN INCLUDED AMONG FOUR NON-FERROUS METALS

RECOMMENDED FOR GOVERNMENT-SUBSIDIZED STOCKPILING
IN RECENT VZVITI. MITI
CURRENTLY SEEKING FY1975 (BEGINS APRIL 1, 1975)
BUDGETARY APPROPRIATION FROM MIN. OF FINANCE TO
STOCKPILE TUNGSTEN ORE CONCENTRATE EQUIVALENT TO
165 MT METALLIC TUNGSTEN IN FY1975. STUDY GROUP
RECOMMENDATION CALLS FOR ACQUISITION 330 MT PRIMARY
TUNGSTEN (THREE MONTH MINIMUM SUPPLY) OVER TWO
YEAR PERIOD.
HODGSON

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